* Advice of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) may be sought for construction sequencing in both Shaft-3 and shaft-4. TAC should be used more effectively.

* There is a need for re-look into the composition of the TAC.

Investment for strengthening of power transmission system in the Southern Region

*10. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved an investment of Rs. 285 crores for strengthening the power transmission system in the Southern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many State Governments in Southern Region have demanded more investment in power sector by the Government to enhance the power supply in this region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A scheme for System Strengthening-III of Southern Region Grid at an estimated cost of Rs. 284.78 crores has been approved in October, 2004. The scheme envisages the following scope of work:

(i) Raichur-Gooty 400 KV Double Circuit Line (with Quad Conductors)

(ii) Nelamangla-Somanahally 400 KV D/C line.

(iii) Extension of Gooty, Raichur, Nelamangla and Somanahally substations.

The scheme is scheduled to be completed by April, 2007. The transmission system shall strengthen the existing transmission network in Southern Region and improve its stability and reliability.

(c) and (d) State Government from time to time request for the inclusion of some transmission lines for construction in the Central Sector. The Central Transmission Utility undertakes construction of inter-state transmission line within the region for ensuring stable and reliable operation of the regional grid.

The Central Transmission Utility also plans and implements inter-regional transmission system to form the National Power Grid for transfer of power from one region to another.

Planning and implementation of the transmission system within the State is the responsibility of the State Transmission Utility.

Test flights of LCA 'TEJAS'

*11. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) TEJAS has been successfully tested;

(b) if so, the results of the test flights; and

(c) its main features as compared of LCAs in use with other international airforces and its comparative cost?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. Indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) TEJAS has been successfully tested for 302 flights including supersonic flights.

(b) Seven test pilots of Indian Air Force have adjudged the handling quality of aircraft as 'Very Good'. Analysis of flight test data has indicated good match between recorded flight test data and the estimated performance.

(c) TEJAS is an advanced technology, single engine, supersonic, light weight, all weather and multi-role air superiority fighter. TEJAS is the smallest and most agile combat aircarft of it's type in the world.

Unit cost of TEJAS is approximately Rs. 100 crore. Whereas cost of comparable aircraft JAS-39 is close to Rs. 150 crore.

Inquiry into use of banned drugs by athletes of Athens Olympics

*12. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government ordered a high level inquiry into the use of banned drugs by our athletes before and during Athens Olympics;